

**MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES - WORK SESSION MEETING  
MAY 10, 2010**

**1. OPENING ACTIVITIES**

The Mount Olive Township Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the Board/Administration Building, 89 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Board President, Mr. Werner, with the following announcement.

*“The notice requirements of the “Open Public Meetings Act” of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this meeting in the notice of regular meetings adopted by this board on April 26, 2010. Such schedule and notice of meetings is posted at the Municipal Building, the Mount Olive Library, the Board of Education offices and the six schools, was submitted to the Daily Record for publication on April 30, 2010, and was filed with the Clerk of Mount Olive Township on April 28, 2010.*

*I direct this announcement be entered into the minutes of this meeting.”*

**Roll Call**

Present: Mr. Amianda  
Mrs. Colligan  
Mrs. Criscuolo  
Mr. Giordano  
Mr. Mania (7:22 p.m.)  
Mrs. Ouimet  
Mr. Robinson  
Mr. Schiess  
Mr. Werner

Also in attendance: Dr. Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools  
Mrs. Decker, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mr. Zitomer, Board Attorney

**2. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY EXPENDITURES**

Mr. Giordano moved to approve the following monthly expenditures:

**May 10, 2010 Bill List #2.1** Motion to approve the May 10, 2010 bill list in the amount of \$536,766.37.

**April 30, 2010 Payroll #2.2** Motion to approve the April 30, 2010 payroll in the amount of \$2,172,130.96.

Seconded by Mrs. Criscuolo.

Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mr. Amianda	None	None
Mrs. Colligan		
Mrs. Criscuolo		
Mr. Giordano		
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Robinson		
Mr. Schiess		
Mr. Werner		

*Note: Mr. Mania was not present when the roll call vote was recorded.*

**3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS (BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT)**

There were no communications and/or petitions acknowledged by the Board or the Superintendent.

## **4. REPORTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **4.1 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **4.1.1 PRESENTATION OF THIRD QUARTER SRI RESULTS**

Dr. Reynolds reviewed the third quarter results of the new Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) program that was introduced to grades 2 through 5 this school year. The Superintendent presented several charts demonstrating the district-wide shift from the “below basic” category to the “proficient” and “advanced proficient” categories. Testing completed at the end of the first quarter indicated that 266 students scored in the “below basic” category while 221 students scored in the “advanced proficient” range. Testing at the end of the third quarter indicated that the number of “below basic” students dropped precipitously, from 266 to 104, while the number of “advanced proficient” students rose dramatically from 221 to 490. Dr. Reynolds noted that the average overall gain in reading scores since the introduction of the SRI program is 136%. In addition, the Superintendent noted that the average lexile scores increased substantially – in some cases the equivalent of 2-3 grade levels in just one year. Based on the gains experienced thus far, Dr. Reynolds speculated that the reading curriculum for the elementary grades will have to be adjusted to account for the escalation in grade levels.

Mrs. Colligan asked if it is necessary to order additional materials based on the results of the test scores. Dr. Reynolds replied that several levels of books had been purchased at the beginning of the program, acknowledging that the program materials will need to be evaluated on an ongoing basis. However, there is no recommendation to order additional materials at this time.

Mr. Giordano asked if the results from the SRI test would have a direct correlation to the NJASK test. Dr. Reynolds responded that there is no correlational studies between the two tests; however, he anticipated that the NJASK test scores would improve since students are better able to read and are more acclimated to the testing techniques.

President Werner opened the meeting to the public for any comments and/or questions on the Superintendent's presentation. Seeing none, this segment of the meeting was promptly closed.

President Werner commended Dr. Reynolds for the phenomenal gains experienced thus far.

### **4.2 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Robinson reported that the content of the Personnel Report is self-explanatory, indicating that all of the information was discussed in closed session.

### **4.3 CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

### **4.4 BUSINESS SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

### **4.5 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT** – No Report

### **4.6 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION LIAISON REPORTS** – No Reports

## **5. ACTION ITEMS**

Before proceeding with the action items, President Werner opened the meeting to the public for any comments and/or questions regarding the action items only.

Mr. Ireland asked why it is necessary to re-write the curriculum for the accounting course in action item #5.1.10, inquiring if it was possible to obtain the curriculum from another school district. Dr. Reynolds explained that the district is required to write curriculum on an ongoing basis. In fact, Dr. Reynolds noted that the district was cited during the recent NJQSAC review for not having written, updated curriculum for every subject. The Superintendent noted that the State changes their standards every five years, explaining that the district must align its curriculum with the latest State standards.

Mr. Stansberry added that there is a mandated personal finance course for the class of 2014. The personal finance course is currently offered as a semester stand-alone course; however, due to the new State mandate, the course will be embedded into the accounting course. Accordingly, the new curriculum for the accounting course will include elements of the personal finance course in order to satisfy the new requirements.

Mr. Werner asked Dr. Reynolds to inquire about the possibility of sharing standardized curriculum between districts at his next Superintendents' roundtable meeting.

An extended discussion ensued as several members of the Board communicated their position, defending the district's practice of writing its own curriculum.

Mr. Ireland inquired about the Settlement and Agreement cited in action item #5.2.1. Mr. Zitomer explained that the settlement relates to a special education case; therefore, the terms of the agreement cannot be publicly discussed. In response to Mr. Ireland's question regarding the cost to the district, the Board attorney responded that the district is responsible for the cost of the educational program for the student. As this case was handled by the insurance counsel, Mr. Zitomer indicated that he is not familiar with the fees involved with the suit; however, he acknowledged that the Board would be responsible for the \$5,000 deductible on the insurance policy. Dr. Reynolds could not ascertain the exact amount of the educational program, speculating that it would not exceed \$100,000.

## **5.1 PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Personnel** action items:

**Appointment of Professional Teaching Staff #5.1.1** Approve the appointment of professional teaching staff for the 2010-2011 school year, as attached. (Budgeted)

**Part-Time Employment of Occupational Therapist #5.1.2** Approve the part time employment of Amy Bowen-Guenzel, Occupational Therapist at Sandshore and Mount Olive Middle Schools, not to exceed twenty-nine (29) hours per week at \$60.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Part-Time Employment of Occupational Therapist #5.1.3** Approve the part time employment of Sharon Garofalo, Occupational Therapist at Mt. View and Mount Olive High Schools, not to exceed twenty-three and one-half (23.5) hours per week at \$60.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Part-Time Employment of Occupational Therapist #5.1.4** Approve the part time employment of Barbara Madaras, Occupational Therapist at CMS Elementary School, not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours per week at \$60.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Part-Time Employment of Physical Therapist #5.1.5** Approve the part time employment of Janice Escobar, Physical Therapist at CMS Elementary, Sandshore, Mount Olive Middle and Mount Olive High Schools, not to exceed twenty-nine (29) hours per week at \$60.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Part-Time Employment of Physical Therapist #5.1.6** Approve the part time employment of Ruth Hurley, Physical Therapist at Mt. View and Tinc Road Schools, not to exceed twenty-two (22) hours per week at \$60.00 per hour for the 2010-2011 school year. (Budgeted)

**Column Movement – 2010-2011 School Year #5.1.7** Approve column movement on the salary guide for the following professional staff for the 2010-2011 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
David Givler	14 BA+30	14 MA
Kathleen Givler	12 BA+30	12 MA
Carmen Lungo	8 MA	8 MA+30
Allen Pokrywa	F BA+30	F MA
Donna Scales	4 BA	4 MA

**Unpaid Leave of Absence #5.1.8**

Approve an unpaid leave of absence for Stacy Brown, Elementary School Teacher at Mt. View School effective September 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year.

**Appointment of Lunchroom/Recess Aide #5.1.9**

Approve the appointment of Joseph Picatello, Lunchroom/Recess Aide at Mount Olive Middle School at step one (1) - \$11.13 per hour on the Aide Salary Guide, three (3) hours per day, five (5) days per week, effective May 3, 2010 for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, replacing Patricia Weeber. (Budgeted)

**Employment of Professional Staff to Write Curriculum #5.1.10**

Approve the employment of the following professional staff to write curriculum at \$41.00 per hour for the subjects and hours listed for the 2009-2010 school year: (Funded thru Perkins Grant)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
David Silverstein	Accounting I	10
David Silverstein	Business, Grades 9-12	10
Grace Barrett	Accounting (semester course)	10
Grace Barrett	Business, Grades 9-12	10
Tom Kutty	Basic CAD	10
Linda Ward	Word Processing	10
David Bodmer	Robotics (2 levels)	20
Timothy Kelly	Business Adm/Management	10
Timothy Kelly	Business Survey	10
Timothy Kelly	Marketing	10

**Employment of Track Meet Time-Keepers #5.1.11**

Approve the employment of track meet time-keepers for Mount Olive High School at the single meet rate of \$56.25 and double meet rate at \$68.75 for the following personnel for the 2010 Spring season:

David Givler	Dale Pych
Bernadette Spangler	Marie Clark
Linda Best	Barbara Batsch
Carol Grabowski	

**Employment of Summer School Secretary #5.1.12**

Approve the summer employment of Linda Ward as Secretary for the 2010 Summer Programs at \$16.00 per hour.

**Additions to List of Substitute Teachers #5.1.13**

Approve the following additions to the list of substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Crs/Degree</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Lauren Culbert	B.A.	Centenary College
Jean Perry	B.S.	Seton Hall University

Seconded by Mrs. Criscuolo.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mr. Amianda	None	Mr. Schiess: #5.1.1
Mrs. Colligan		
Mrs. Criscuolo		
Mr. Giordano		
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Robinson		
Mr. Schiess: #5.1.2 - #5.1.13		
Mr. Werner		

*Note: Mr. Mania was not present when the roll call vote was recorded.*

## **5.2 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ITEMS**

Mrs. Ouimet made a motion to approve, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following **Administrative** action item:

### **Approve Stipulation of Settlement #5.2.1**

Resolved, that the Board approve the Stipulation of Settlement in the matter captioned S.G. and W.G. o/b/o N.G. v. Mount Olive Board of Education, Agency Ref. No.: EDSEM 07914-2009N in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth therein; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Superintendent is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board.

Seconded by Mr. Amianda.

### Board Discussion:

None

### Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mr. Amianda	None	None
Mrs. Colligan		
Mrs. Criscuolo		
Mr. Giordano		
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Robinson		
Mr. Schiess		
Mr. Werner		

*Note: Mr. Mania was not present when the roll call vote was recorded.*

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Tencza stated that the Township website indicated that the Township had not yet received the budget information from the Board of Education. Mr. Werner objected, emphasizing that the Township has received all of the required documents plus all of the additional information they requested. The Board President commented on the defeated budget process and summarized the proceedings that have taken place to date.

Mr. Elliot read a letter from his daughter, McKenzie, regarding potential cuts to AP courses at Mt. Olive High School. Dr. Reynolds responded that any potential cuts are just rumors at this point in time. At the present time, the administration is gathering information and discussing various scenarios in preparation for the Town Council's decision regarding the budget. The Superintendent acknowledged that courses with low enrollment numbers could be at risk; however, no decisions have been made at this time. Dr. Reynolds emphasized that the decisions will depend upon the amount of funding cut by the Town Council.

An extended discussion ensued as the Board considered various ways to maintain courses with low enrollment numbers such as combining with other districts, embedding classes, or conducting classes through technology.

President Werner assured the audience that no decisions have been made to eliminate AP courses at the high school, reiterating that the Board will not make any decisions until the Town Council provides the Board with an amount to be deducted from the budget.

Mr. Morgan announced that the Town Council does not have to cut the budget and urged members of the audience to attend the Town Council meeting to support the budget.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS** - None

## **8. NEW BUSINESS** - None

## **9. BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**

Mrs. Colligan offered kudos to the World Languages Department for their annual World Language National Honor Society induction service. Mrs. Colligan was delighted to see the large number of students involved in the foreign language program.

In response to the letter written by McKenzie Elliot, Mrs. Criscuolo emphasized that the Curriculum & Instruction Committee is committed to putting forth a first-rate curriculum that will challenge students to rise to the level of their expectations.

Mrs. Ouimet applauded McKenzie for her written appeal and declared that there are many other options to be explored, such as business and college partnerships and virtual classrooms.

Mrs. Ouimet echoed Mrs. Colligan's kudos to the Foreign Language Department for their induction ceremony.

Mrs. Ouimet questioned the status of the Community School. Dr. Reynolds explained that the Community School program has been utilizing its surplus to fund its operations. The Superintendent noted that the program director is attempting to make the program more profitable through targeted advertising and internet mailings. Mrs. Ouimet suggested that the program director should consider sharing services with the Roxbury Community School in an effort to reduce costs.

Mrs. Ouimet questioned the status of the energy audit and the cell phone tower. Mrs. Decker responded that the bids for the energy audit are due on Friday and confirmed that the district has already begun collecting rent for the cell phone tower.

In response to a concern raised by Mrs. Ouimet, Mr. Stanberry provided assurance that there would be enough diploma covers for the graduation ceremony this year.

Mr. Werner updated the Board and public audience on the current status of the budget. Mr. Werner announced that a meeting between the Town Council Budget Committee and the Board of Education Budget Committee is scheduled for this Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Town Council is considering a special meeting on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to finalize the budget reduction amount and the corresponding line items. The information for this meeting will be posted on the District website.

## **10. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

At 7:22 p.m. Mr. Werner moved the following resolution to recess into closed session:

Resolved, at a public meeting of the Mount Olive Township Board of Education held May 10, 2010 that, pursuant to Sections 7 and 8 of the "Open Public Meetings Act", the following item(s) be discussed in a session of the Board of Education closed to the public:

**Personnel  
Negotiations  
Attorney-Client Privilege**

Be it further resolved, that the matters discussed in closed session be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Seconded by Mr. Giordano and approved by a unanimous affirmative roll call vote of those members present.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:22 p.m.

Dr. Reynolds informed the Board of his intent to dismiss two mechanics in the bus garage due to performance issues. Accordingly, the Superintendent recommended that the contracts of David Parkhurst and Frank Krol not be renewed for the upcoming school year, with formal action to be taken at the next Board meeting.

President Werner asked Mrs. Ouimet to read aloud administrative action item #5.2.2 for the benefit of the public audience. President Werner then opened the meeting to the public for any comments and/or questions regarding the proposed action item. Seeing none, this segment of the meeting was promptly closed.

Mrs. Ouimet moved action item #5.2.2 as follows:

<b>Approve Memorandum of Agreement and Sidebar #5.2.2</b>	Approve the Memorandum of Agreement and Sidebar between the Mt. Olive Township Board of Education and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 97, dated May 10, 2010.
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Seconded by Mr. Giordano.

Board Discussion:

None

Roll Call:

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstentions</u>
Mr. Amianda	None	None
Mrs. Criscuolo		
Mrs. Colligan		
Mr. Giordano		
Mr. Mania		
Mrs. Ouimet		
Mr. Robinson		
Mr. Schiess		
Mr. Werner		

## **11. ADJOURN**

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Mania made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Giordano, and unanimously carried by those members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Jones, Board Secretary